



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, May 26, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Domestic Programs

Congressional Earmarks - A congressional funding earmark was received through the Emerging Pest Line item for control and eradication of hydrilla in the lower Rio Grande of Texas, and Virginia programs at Smith Mountain Lake and Lake Gaston. The projects are expected to include the bioagent *Hydrellia pakistanae* and triploid grass carp. Congressional funding earmarks through the Federal Noxious Weed line item include:

Kiski Basin Invasive Plants/Biodiversity project (Pennsylvania) - The project will include weed survey in a riparian zone, including Hogweed as a survey target.

Nez Perce biocontrol project in Idaho - Rearing of various weeds and biocontrol agents, providing the bioagents to interested parties, and setting up and presenting workshops regarding release and monitoring of the agents.

Contacts have been made with Regional and State program personnel to start work on cooperative agreements to initiate all the above projects.

Contact: Al Tasker (301) 734-5708

Alan.V.Tasker@USDA.Gov

Grasshopper - Mormon cricket suppression programs continue in Nevada, Utah, and Washington with treatments beginning in Idaho. APHIS has decided that more extensive survey efforts are needed prior to considering grasshopper treatments in the Klamath Marsh area of Oregon. Early survey results indicate high densities of overwintering, bandwinged grasshoppers in Nebraska, and APHIS is continuing to work with the State and private landowners, as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service, to develop the best approach to that situation.

Imported Fire Ant - The Maryland Department of Agriculture has reported imported fire ants present in a shipment of potted plants being sold in the vicinity of Berlin, MD. This regulatory incident is being investigated, and a list of other locations that may have received infested plants is being developed.

Contact: Charlie Brown (301) 734-4838

Charles.L.Brown@USDA.Gov

Sudden oak death - The spring 2003 meeting of the California Oak Mortality Task Force will be held this week. The focus of this meeting will be "An Arboricultural Look and Sudden Oak Death." Presentations will include the situation in Europe, Oregon, State and Federal Quarantines, and on the National Survey (APHIS/State/Forest Service).

There will be a review of the history, and presentations on compliance issues, mitigation, sanitation practices and treatments. In the evening there is a field trip to the "SODBusters" site where Marin County is piloting a program specifically designed to aid in the safe disposal of *P. ramorum* hosts. The following day is a training session for arborists on "Sampling, Recognition, and Mitigation Measures for Sudden Oak Death."

A1 in Europe & A2 in the U.S. – Determination of P. ramorum (PR) mating types - Researchers have been predicting dire consequences should the two mating types of PR get together and sexual recombination occur. The thought is that this could result in more virulent strains of the organism that causes sudden oak death. Amid reports of A2 being confirmed in Belgium and A1 suspected in Oregon, regulators are asking these four questions: 1) What is the fastest, easiest and most reliable methodology for determining mating types, 2) Should A1 be detected in a US nursery or forest setting, would a stronger response be justified than if it is A2 detected, 3) Presuming the A1 mating type is not established in the US, what are the risks and probable impact should it be introduced and established, and 4) Do our current import regulations on host material from Europe provide adequate protection if we determine a higher risk to agriculture and the environment if two mating types were brought together in the US. David



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, May 26, 2003

Kaplan and the staff at CPHST are working to answer these questions.

Additional hosts at a nursery in Clackamas County, Oregon have been determined to be positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*. The host material was confirmed through PCR testing, and through culturing by Oregon Department of Agriculture pathologists. The following infected plants were destroyed by incineration on May 22, 2003, by Oregon Department of Agriculture Inspectors: 900 *Rhododendron* var. 'unique'; 1,500 *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* var. 'mariesii', and 1,200 *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* var. 'snowflake'. Trace forwards have been conducted for these species. Four nurseries in Washington State have been identified as having received *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* var. 'mariesii', two of which also received *Rhododendron* var. 'Unique'.

Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-5038
Jonathan.M.Jones@USDA.Gov

Ralstonia - As of May 21, APHIS confirmed detections of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3, biovar 2 on geraniums in 27 States and 127 establishments (excluding the MI and NH rooting stations), primarily in geraniums from Kenya. The number of positive testing facilities in each state is tallied as follows: AL (9), AR (2), CO (1), DE (1), GA (2), ID (1), IL (4), IN (4), IA (6), KS (3), KY (1), MD (3), ME (1), MI(13), MN (4), MO (6), NH (1), NJ (1), NY (3), NC (13), OH (7), PA (8), SC (8), TN (1), TX (7), VA (10), and WI (7). All of the 921 affected nurseries have been released. APHIS is in the process of following up on suspect geraniums linked to a few shipments from Guatemala that tested positive.

An Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 68, No. 100, Friday, May 23, 2003, pp. 28115-28119) amending the regulations in 7 CFR Part 319. This amendment was effective May 16, 2003. An additional declaration must appear on the phytosanitary certificate with all articles of *Pelargonium* spp. and *Solanum* spp. imported into the US, except those imported under the Canadian greenhouse-grown restricted plant program. The additional declaration

must state either that the articles of *Pelargonium* spp. and *Solanum* spp. were produced in a production facility that has been tested and found to be free of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 or that *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 is not known to occur in the region in which the articles were produced. The public may submit comments on the Interim Rule up to July 22, 2003. See

<http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=06404825146+0+0+0&WAISAction=retrieve>

Contact: Matt Royer (301) 734-7654
Matthew.H.Royer@USDA.Gov

Soybean rust - A conference call took place on Section 18 Development for Soybean rust (SBR), Thursday, May 22, 2003. The draft of various fungicides as candidates against SBR was discussed for its submission to EPA. The next meeting to review the update in this matter is scheduled in two weeks.

A Soybean Rust Workshop is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 29, 2003 in Jackson, MS. This workshop is being organized by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Japanese Beetle - A very successful pre-season Japanese Beetle (JB) meeting took place on May 20, 2003, between top officials from the Indianapolis' FedEx office, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and APHIS, including the State Plant Health Director from Sacramento, California, to discuss new initiatives being developed and practiced by FedEx in an effort to manage and control the movement of JB from the infested East Coast States to the protected West Coast States of the U.S. CDFA authorities were so impressed with the efforts of FedEx that Dan Henry proposed to hold similar meetings with Oregon and Washington States authorities.

Participation was made in Canada's Bilateral Talks through a conference call regarding U.S./Canada Horticulture Bilateral Working Group Meeting on May 22, 2003. Contributed in the discussions related to the



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, May 26, 2003

Canadian JB Harmonization Plan and the latest situation regarding Chrysanthemum White Rust Management Protocol which needs to be harmonized as soon as possible.

Contact: Anwar Rizvi (301) 734-4313

Anwar.S.Rizvi@USDA.Gov